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EDC 102

Life in public high school: Reflection

My high school experience was very much different from the stories that I have recently read about in *Savage Inequalities*, so I cannot complain. I am from a very wealthy town in Connecticut, and even the people that are middle class would be upper class in any other neighboring town or city. Many people in Darien sent their children to private or boarding school after completing 8th grade, but majority sent their kids to the high school that I attended, Darien High School. It is the only high school in the town, consisting of about 1300 students. It is the type of place where something happens, no matter how big or small, and the whole school knows about within the hour. Everyone knows everyone.

I think the size of the school was helpful because when it came to our academics we always had a lot of resources. Our teachers were very involved and approachable; they often scheduled times to meet students if they struggled with a past test or concept from class, and they were always there early before and after school, if you just wanted to stop by for a quick question. It was tough to hear about the students in *Savage Inequalities*, especially the neglected children in East St. Louis. It is mind blowing to hear that there are children that go to school and don’t even have a teacher to teach them, and they are left completely unsupervised. It definitely makes me feel like I took for granted the days I had “mental health days,” because there are obviously students in other parts of the country that would give anything to have the type of education that I did growing up. It is sad that so many of the students have given up hope on ever pursing school further than high school, all because they have not been exposed to the same opportunities that wealthier areas have. In chapter 2, it was described that after student’s eighth grade promotion ceremony they have a huge celebration; mostly because it is the best thing that they will ever have achieved, because majority of the kids in the area don’t move on to high school or drop out within the first two years.

I can honestly say that I was not aware of the large amount of students that drop out during their high school careers. In my town, that is completely unheard of; in fact, it is unheard of for a student to consider not going to college, or even taking time off after high school. There is a strict base set in the society of my town, you go to school, take the SATs and ACTs until you get the highest possible grades that you need, which may require as many tutors as you need, and then you apply to dozens of college until you find the best one for you. Many of the kids from my high school go to ivy league schools, and I am sure they would be just as surprised to hear that some students just a few states away don’t even attend college. I still don’t know where/ if we can place the blame anywhere for this happening, but I am definitely a lot more grateful to experience that I had, after reading about the tragic, unsanitary schools that students have to go to everyday.